



**Second Inter-Regional Program on Identity, Diversity,
and Dialogue (IDD)
July 10-18, 2019, Nairobi, Kenya, Africa**

*Theme: Journeying Towards an Affirming and Inclusive
Community: Dialogue on Sexual Orientation and Gender
Identities and Expressions*

**Sharing Experiences on IDD –
Latin America and Caribbean Region**



FEDERACION UNIVERSAL
DE MOVIMIENTOS
ESTUDIANTILES CRISTIANOS
en America Latina y el Caribe.

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Context in LAC region: growing fundamentalism

- Conservative governments accompanied by anti-rights and fundamentalists movements are occupying place in the new geopolitical configuration in Latin America, denying pluralities, and threatening public policies and the agenda of rights promoted and partially achieved in the past decade.
- Within a mercantilist logic, such as the theology of prosperity, it also grows inflamed discourses, against "the ideology of gender", and other ways of reading and thinking of Christianity that focuses on human dignity, and the defense of social justice and creation.



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1. Briefly share the activities organized under the theme Identity, Diversity and Dialogue(IDD) or any programs/activities related to human sexuality, sexual orientation and gender identities (SOGIE) in your region at various levels (SCMs, local branch, national, regional, in partnership with other organizations etc)

- The theme of SOGIE is manifested in LAC through the program "Identities, Diversity and Coexistence with Peace and Justice".
- 3 axes: Sexual diversity and Gender justice; Multiculturalism and Interreligiosity.
- All these activities are supported and visibilized by the regional secretariat of FUMEC/ WSCF LAC.



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- Christian Student Movement for Equity - Mexico

It has been part of an appeal for having a space for the dialogue of diversity, called "queer coffee". It gathers young people and students to discuss theological, political and social aspects around sexual diversity.

Also in Mexico City we have held dialogues on religious and gender diversity in the Mexican theological community. The last programming was the "Ecumenical Prayer for Diversity" held in June 2019 to celebrate the month of LGBT Pride.



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- Visit to the Ministry of Sexual Diversity during the Eco School in El Salvador - 2018



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- Christian Student Movement - Argentina

We have begun a series of meetings and conferences with young people about fundamentalisms and violence, focusing mainly on the relationship between these discourses and gender issues and sexual diversity. We analyze social, political, economic aspects and from biblical texts to discuss the relation with gender violence and diversity.



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- Christian Student
Movement - Argentina

Meetings about
fundamentalisms and
violence - 2019



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- Christian Student Movement Cuba

A great deal of work has been done for some years with regard to the public incidence on the rights of the LGBT population. Since 2012, the movement has been accompanying and promoting visibility to the theme of diversity, meetings and dialogues with representatives of national politics. In addition, dialogue and training meetings are held on the subject.



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- Christian Student Movement - Cuba



Act against
Homophobia and
Transphobia - 2014
Ecumenical
celebration of call
for peace and
non-violence

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- Christian Student Movement Brasil

Important initiatives, including young people, who are working with the issues of diversity.

Proposal: Regional meeting on democracy, human rights and the media, which among the topics covered has the perspective of the discussion of SOGIE to think about strategies of ecumenical articulation of Youth, thinking of the next cycle of the federation from 2020 to 2024.

*Some young initiatives supported by
the FUMEC/ WSCF LAC in Brazil:*



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- Youth Ecumenical Network (REJU):

Network formed and protagonized by youths from Brazil who seek, from different forms of faith, the promotion of the young rights.

Specifically in São Paulo, we are working on a campaign that seeks to promote the debate on the themes of gender and sexuality, fundamentalisms and the importance of the ecumenism and Laic State.

- Evangelicxs for Diversity:

A network of LGBT + and not LGBT+ christian people who understand that sexual diversity and gender identity should be celebrated as expressions of faith and spirituality, that regardless of gender or sexuality, communities of faith can be a safe place for everyone.



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REJU in an Act
against
religious
intolerance -
2017

National
meeting of
Evangelicxs
for Diversity -
2018



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- 1st LGBT+ community and churches Congress: “Ecumenical Dialogues toward Respect for Diversity” - June 2019

Recently and new experience in the country, which allowed public incidence, as a way to show other narratives of faith, which are not just as fundamentalists. The Congress was realized by KOINONIA Ecumenical presence and service, an FBO (Faith based organization), and the Parish of the Holy trinity of the Anglican Church of Brazil. But also was articulated together with several denominations of churches, faith communities, researchers and social movements for the rights of LGBT people.



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Participation in the LGBT + Pride parade with the group
"people of Faith against LGBTphobia"



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Result - Letter From São Paulo: Ecumenical Dialogues toward Respect for Diversity

The document marks a political positioning, is signed by people from the most diverse churches and communities of Faith and brings as proposal the affirmation of "lesbian, gay, bisexual, asexual, transvestites, transsexuals, non-binary, intersex, queer, and any other expressions of gender and other people expressions of gender" in the various spiritualities and communities of faith, in addition to denouncing experiences of exclusion and oppression against these people.

Link to the document: <http://bit.ly/CartalgrejasComunidadeLGBTI>



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2. What are the opportunities and specific challenges to initiate dialogue on human sexuality in your SCMs/ region?

- LAC region affirm ourselves as a community that affirms and includes diversity, and because of this institucional affirmative position, we see one as an opportunity to work the topic.
- But despite this affirmative as we observe, the theme of SOGIE is also a taboo, a prejudice, in some places.
- Breaking the prejudice on the subject involves actions that promote clear and objective information to sensibilized about the theme, in a language that welcomes those who think differently from us.
- We are at the moment to learn to dialogue, and understanding, only in this way we can build bridges of dialogue with people.
- We understand that changes will come if we dialogue with people, not necessarily only with the leaders of the churches and movements, and for this it is necessary to think about new methodologies and language strategies to show new possibilities of Biblical readings, from the experience of people, from a popular reading.



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3. How WSCF can assist in your process of dialogue in SCMs/ region on human sexuality and to build an affirming and inclusive community?

- Through actions that express the links of the entire WSCF community around the world, to strengthen each region.
- Ecumenical activities together that help new people to add to the discussion of the theme of SOGIE, such as celebrations, and letters of positioning, for example. Always trying to include the pentecostal and neopentecostal sectors, preferably;
- Network communication initiatives on issues related to SOGIE topics such as informational campaigns, joint actions on social networks, videos, texts, etc.
- Training initiatives on the theme for ecumenical youth, such as what we are doing in Nairobi, encouraging reflection for the analysis of reality and multiplying values of an ecumenical youth committed to peace, justice, defence of Human dignity and respect for religious diversity and cultural plurality.



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4. Any suggestions/ recommendations to the IDD Program of the WSCF

- Intersectionality

From our LAC region we see that the struggle of minority rights, LGBT population, women, immigrants, poor, can not be possible without an intersectionality, without having the view that these are issues that are within an economic system that strengthens inequalities and lack of opportunities. We look and understand inequalities within these themes.

- Analysis

And this goes through an analysis of social classes and economic relations of power. It is necessary to reflect on the situation of vulnerability in which these people often meet.

- Affirm and include in all aspects

It is not right to accept LGBTI people in our practices, but to oblige them to follow the same laws, norms and customs to "fit in the institutions". Includes affirm racial, class, gender, and region issues. It is also necessary to include experiences, limits, pains, desires and dreams, and recognizing our mistakes of the past, to look forward with love, hope and empathy.

